



News Release

For immediate release: December 29, 2011

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This news release was edited to correct an error.

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360-236-4022

Sexual contact with patient leads to license surrender for Seattle area dentist

OLYMPIA — A King County dentist who had sexual contact with a patient has agreed to permanently surrender his license to practice as dentist in Washington. Ashok Lalli (DE00005520) was immediately suspended in June 2011 and has been out of practice since.

Lalli asked for a hearing to contest the charges after the state Department of Health charged him with sexual misconduct and immediately suspended his license in June. An agreed order for surrender of Lalli's dental license signed this month completes the process.

Between August 2008 and July 2010, Lalli provided dental services on several occasions to a dental assistant who was also his patient. Lalli engaged in multiple acts of sexual misconduct with the patient, including groping her breasts and groin area, penetrating her with his fingers, and forcing her to massage his penis.

Consumers who believe a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call the Department of Health at 360-236-4700 to report their complaint. A [complaint form is also online](#) (www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Complaint.htm). The form can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to the agency's Health Systems Quality Assurance division.

The Department of Health protects and promotes public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating the competency and quality of health care providers. The agency establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care.

The [Department of Health website](#) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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